



Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of March 10 - 14, 2014

Monday, March 10, 2014

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:30 PM

Agenda:

HF2556 (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; new residential facility moratorium exemptions provided, grants provided for veteran housing needs assessments, and money appropriated.

HF2557 (Newton): County veterans service officer duties, commissioner of veterans affairs' federal funding-related duties, and eligibility for veterans homes modified.

HF2757 (Newton) Veterans homes cost of care calculations modified.

Committee: Senate Health, Human Services and Housing

Chair: Sen. Kathy Sheran

Room: 15 Capitol

Time: 12:00 PM

Agenda:

SF1807 (Saxhaug): Military members expedited licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Committee: House Health and Human Services Policy

Chair: Rep. Tina Liebling

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 2:15 PM

Agenda:

HF2287 (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; exemptions provided for certain moratoriums on new residential facilities, study on veterans homes required, veterans housing needs assessments grants provided, report required, and money appropriated.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM

Agenda:

SF1893 (Wiger): North St. Paul military veterans memorial bond issue and appropriation.

SF2400 (Hoffman, J): Brooklyn Park armory renovation bond issue and appropriation.

SF2086 (Westrom): Eagle's healing nest for veterans appropriation.

SF2393 (Housley): Veterans rest camp appropriation.

State Legislative Update for the Week of March 3 - 7, 2014

Monday, March 3, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senator Dahle introduced:

SF2118 : A bill for an act relating to education; adopting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children; requiring a military-connected youth identifier; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 127A.70, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 127A.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

Senators Anderson and Chamberlain introduced:

SF2143: A bill for an act relating to peace officers; providing reciprocity for military experience; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 626.8517.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senators Anderson and Chamberlain introduced:

SF2184: A bill for an act relating to veterans; appropriating money to public safety for a grant for training community safety personnel about the use of de-escalation techniques for dealing with veterans returning from active military service in combat zones.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senators Saxhaug, Hawj and Miller introduced:

SF2202: A bill for an act relating to veterans; providing a grant for the Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans' Voices; appropriating money.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Newton; Murphy, M., and Hausman introduced:

HF2556: A bill for an act relating to veterans; veterans housing and long-term care; providing exemptions for certain moratoriums on new residential facilities; providing grants for housing needs assessments for veterans; appropriating money; amending

Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 256I.04, subdivision 3; Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 245A.03, subdivision 7.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Newton; Murphy, M., and Hausman introduced:

HF2557: A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying certain county veterans service officer duties; modifying certain duties of the commissioner of veterans affairs related to federal funding; modifying eligibility for the veterans homes; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 197.603, subdivision 1; 198.003, subdivision 4a; 198.01; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 196.30.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Sawatzky, Simonson, Isaacson, Newton and Ward, J.A. introduced:

HF2569: A bill for an act relating to education; adopting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children; requiring a military-connected youth identifier; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 127A.70, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 127A.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy.

Newton and Dettmer introduced:

HF2661: A bill for an act relating to veterans; providing a grant for the Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans' Voices; appropriating money.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Nelson and Newton introduced:

HF2665: A bill for an act relating to the military; removing obsolete, redundant, and unnecessary laws related to military affairs; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 191.08; 192.12; 192.15; 192.16; 192.21; 192.42; 192.54; 192.66.
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

Committee Hearings

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division
Chair: Senator Tom Saxhaug

MN Department of Veterans Affairs Review. Mike McElhiney, Director of Legislative Affairs, provided an update on the 2013 appropriations MDVA received and the expenditures to date. The programs included Honor Guard Funerals; MN GI Bill for OJT and Apprenticeship; the Gold Star Program; County Veterans Service Officers' grants; the MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV); and the Department IT improvements.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Committee Hearings

Committee: **House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs**

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

HF2447 (Falk): Employers required to provide veterans time off for Veterans Day. This bill would require employers provide time off to veterans who would be required to work on November 11th. Employers would have the discretion to offer this as paid time off or unpaid time off. An exception is also created to allow employers to deny time off if necessary for public health or safety, or if granting time off would cause the employer significant economic or operational disruption. Under the bill, employees must provide an employer with 30 days written notice of intent to take time off for Veterans Day, as well as a copy of the employee's DD214 or similar documentation of service. The employer must notify the employee at least ten days prior to Veterans Day whether the time off is approved, and whether it will be paid or unpaid. If the employer cannot satisfy all requests for time off under this section, they must deny requests for the minimum number of employees possible.

Many committee members voiced concern about employer/employee relations and felt this was not what veterans wanted. The bill was forwarded to the Committee on Labor, Workplace and Regulated Industries.

HF2233 (Dettmer): Federal subtractions modified, and military retirement subtraction created. This bill creates a subtraction from income for any member of the military who has 20 or more years of service in an active component or a reserve component, or a person who was separated from the military prior to 20 years due to a service-connected disability. The subtraction equals \$1,500 for every year, or portion thereof, of military service. In the case married spouses who file jointly, each spouse can claim this credit. An amendment to include medically retired veterans passed, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Taxes.

HF2478 (O'Driscoll): Veterans in Crisis: Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute. The delete-all amendment provides a one-time appropriation of \$100,000 to the commissioner of public safety to be used on training state and local community safety personnel in the use of crisis de-escalation techniques for use with Minnesota veterans. The commissioner must consult with the Peace Officers and Training Board, and may consult with other interested individuals, when selecting the service provider for this training. The training opportunities must be delivered statewide. An amendment to the delete-all amendment that removed the specific appropriation was passed and the bill was referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

HF2665 (Nelson): Military affairs obsolete, redundant, and unnecessary laws removed. This bill seeks to eliminate obsolete provisions currently contained in law. The bill, as amended, was recommended to pass and referred to the General Register.

Committee: **Senate State and Local Government**

Chair: Sen. Sandra Pappas

SF1807 (Saxhaug): Military members expedited licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards. This bill directs state agencies and certain licensing boards to establish procedures to expedite licenses and to issue temporary licenses to qualified active duty military members, the spouses of active duty military members, and veterans who have left service in the prior two years with honorable general discharge status. To qualify for a temporary license, an individual must have a license in another state without history of disciplinary action and must pass a background check. State agencies and boards are authorized to adopt rules. The bill, as amended, was recommended to pass and re-referred to the Committee on Health, Human Services and Housing.

SF1784 (Koenen): Veterans Day time off requirement for veterans. This bill requires an employer to provide veterans with time off on Veterans Day, unless this would impact public health and safety or would cause the employer significant economic or operational disruption. The employer is permitted to pay or to not pay the employee for the time off. It also requires an employee to provide 30-day written notice to an employer of intent to take time off, and provide certain proof of eligibility. The employer is required to notify the employee ten days before Veterans Day if the employer will provide paid or unpaid time off. If the employer is unable to provide time off for all employees requesting time off on Veterans Day, the employer will deny time off to the minimum number of employees to protect public health and safety or to maintain minimum operational capacity. The bill was passed, as amended, and re-referred to the Committee on Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development.

Committee: **House Property and Local Tax Division**

Chair: Rep. Jim Davnie

HF2261 (Persell) Disabled veteran homestead valuation exclusion extended. This bill modifies the market value exclusion which is available to veterans who have been rated with a 100% total and permanent disability. Currently, if a disabled veteran predeceases their spouse, the spouse is eligible to continue the exclusion for the current tax year as well as the five following tax years, and then the benefit is lost. This bill would remove that limitation, and offer the exclusion to the spouse so long as the spouse does not remarry, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of their legal title in the property.

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Senate Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Senators Johnson and Pappas introduced:

SF2311: A bill for an act relating to the military; removing obsolete, redundant, and unnecessary laws related to military affairs; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 191.08; 192.12; 192.15; 192.16; 192.21; 192.42; 192.54; 192.66.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senator Fischbach introduced:

SF2318: A bill for an act relating to corrections; requiring certain notifications to inmates who are veterans; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 243; 641.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senators Chamberlain, Anderson, Dahms and Gazelka introduced:

SF2344: A bill for an act relating to taxation; individual income; modifying federal subtractions; creating military retirement subtraction; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Housley, Anderson and Chamberlain introduced:

SF2393: A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money to the veterans rest camp.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senators Hoffman and Eaton introduced:

SF2400: A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for renovation of the Brooklyn Park Armory; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Saxhaug introduced:

SF2406: A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying certain county veterans service officer duties; modifying certain duties of the commissioner of veterans affairs related to federal funding; modifying eligibility for the veterans homes; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 197.603, subdivision 1; 198.003, subdivision 4a; 198.01; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 196.30.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senators Saxhaug and Anderson introduced:

SF2431: A bill for an act relating to education; creating a working group to study compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

House Session

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

Dettmer; Lohmer; Benson, M.; Anderson, P., and Gunther introduced:

HF2745: A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money to the veterans rest camp.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy.

Newton, Sawatzky and Lien introduced:

HF2757: A bill for an act relating to veterans homes; modifying cost of care calculations; providing for annual adjustments amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 198.03, subdivisions 2, 3.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Newton and Dettmer introduced:

HF2812 A bill for an act relating to state observances; creating Veterans' Voices Month; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 10.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

Committee Hearings

Committee: **House Education Policy**

Chair: Rep. Carlos Mariani

HF2569 (Sawatzky): Educational opportunity for military children interstate compact adopted, and military-connected youth identifier required.

HF2396 (Morgan): Military members license processing expedition required for state agencies and professional licensing boards required, temporary licensure provided, and rulemaking authorized. This bill directs affected state agencies and boards to develop an expedited procedure for issuing a professional services license or certificate to a qualified individual who is an active duty member of the military, the spouse of an active duty member of the military, or an inactive veteran who left military service with an honorable or general discharge within two years of when the individual applies for a license or certificate. Allows agencies and boards to issue temporary licenses and certificates to qualified individuals and to adopt rules to effect this provision. The bill was laid on the table to be taken up again on Friday, March 7.

Committee: **Senate Education**

Chair: Sen. Patricia Torres Ray

SF2118 (Dahle): Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Committee: **House Jobs and Economic Development Finance and Policy**

Chair: Rep. Tim Mahoney

HF2469 (Savick): Military members license processing expedition required for state agencies and professional licensing boards required, temporary licensure provided, and rulemaking authorized. (See HF2396) The bill was passed and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

